

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2025

6:30-8:00 PM

Webex link and Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Purpose: The Seattle Renters' Commission (SRC) was established to represent the interest of renters located in Seattle, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on public policy matters of importance to renters citywide.

Commissioners in attendance Kate Rubin, Lydia Felty, and Julissa Sanchez

Commissioners not in attendance Dan Godfrey, Atif Osami

People with pending appointments in attendance: Julia Payne

Staff: Laura Jenkins

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: No

(Transcriber's note: These minutes provide a summary of key points discussed. A full recording is available upon request.)

Welcome & Acknowledgments

- Land and labor acknowledgments led by Commissioner Rubin.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- The agenda for January 8, 2025, meeting was approved with additions.
- The minutes from December 5, 2024, meeting was approved with the caveat that a "Decisions/votes made during this meeting:" section would be added.

Pending Commission Appointments

- The Department of Neighborhoods (DON) checked in with Council Member Moore's office, no updates on the status of appointments.
- Pending appointments remain unresolved. A special meeting to address the issue was suggested.
- **Action Items:**
 - Laura Jenkins to continue following up regarding pending appointments.
 - Commissioners to consider public comment or group resignation as potential accountability measures if no progress is made.

Renter Listening Session & Recruitment

- Discussed co-hosting a renter listening session with the LGBTQ Commission. Potential collaboration with other commissions such as the Women's Commission was also considered.
- Budget was mentioned with uncertainty about the available funding for the session.
- Language access and outreach to diverse renter communities were highlighted as priorities.
- **Action Items:**
 - Commissioner Felty and commissioner Rubin, as co-chairs, to coordinate with Laura Jenkins to organize the session and engage other commissions.
 - Commission Sanchez to be included in planning discussions, necessitating a special meeting notice for quorum.

Update on Renting in Seattle Guides

- Approximately 50 guides in multiple languages (Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Somali, Amharic, Vietnamese) have been printed and are available.
- Proposed distribution to non-profits and housing support organizations.
- **Action Items:**
 - Laura Jenkins to deliver a few copies to the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI).
 - Commissioners to finalize distribution plans after the listening session.

Discussion of "Landlord Lobby Wishlist Leaked" Article

- Commissioners discussed the implications of the article and whether proactive measures or public responses are necessary.
- Consensus to share the article on SRC's social media as an educational resource.
- **Action Items:**
 - Commissioner Rubin to share the article on SRC's social media platforms.
 - Potential future responses to be revisited if the topic arises in council meetings.

Unfinished/New Business

- February Meeting Rescheduling
 - Conflict with the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan. A poll will be sent to determine a new date.
- BlueSky Account
 - Motion approved for Kate Rubin to create and manage a BlueSky account for SRC, operating under the same guidelines as other social media platforms.
- Revisit items from December meeting
 - Approved drafting letter to Seattle City Council on ethics requirements.
 - Lydia responsible for letter, currently pending.
- **Action Items:**
 - Laura Jenkins to send a poll to reschedule February's meeting.
 - Commissioner Rubin to set up and manage SRC's BlueSky account.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:

1. Approved sharing the "Landlord Lobby Wishlist Leaked" article on social media.
2. Approved the creation of a BlueSky account for SRC.
3. Approved rescheduling the February meeting via a poll.

Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:02 PM